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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/526,202	03/01/2005	Takayuki Nagata	0388-050627	6430
28289	7590	02/07/2006	EXAMINER DUVERNE, JEAN F	
THE WEBB LAW FIRM, P.C. 700 KOPPERS BUILDING 436 SEVENTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA 15219			ART UNIT 2839	

DATE MAILED: 02/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/526,202

Applicant(s)

NAGATA, TAKAYUKI

Examiner

Jean F. Duverne

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, 18, 19, 21 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 17 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) .<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)               |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/02/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 9, 11- 15, 18, 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Masao (JP 3136872 ).

Masao's device discloses a connector at comprising contact members (2) having elastically deformable points of contact formed in two locations, and a main connector body (5) for insulating and holding a plurality of contact members arranged at intervals in a width direction with said points of contact in the two locations of the respective contact members being in the same positions (see figs. 1-4) as seen in the direction of arrangement wherein said main connector body includes a pair of socket portions for receiving board (7, 8) ends defining land electrodes (see figs. 1-4) in two rows corresponding to said points of contact of the respective contact members with the S-shape (see abstract) in the same positions as seen in the direction of arrangement, so that the land electrodes in the contact housing (5) are in pressure contact with the corresponding points of contact (see figs. 1-4); wherein said contact members are formed in the direction of arrangement, and are held in a middle part by said main connector body, with said points of contact being formed in end regions extending in the same direction in which said board ends are inserted for pressure contact; wherein said

pair of socket portions are formed in two opposite surfaces of said main connector body at to receive said board ends inserted in opposite directions; wherein said main connector body includes partition walls for defining a plurality of divisions for individually accommodating said contact members, and guides in the main body (5) for guiding said contact members to be accommodated in said divisions to positions to attain said arrangement; and said contact members define guided portions to be guided by said guides at 11, and held portions for press fitting (see figs. 1-4) with said partition walls in time of guidance into said divisions; wherein said contact members are arranged in a plurality of rows with a gap in the directions of insertion of said board ends into said socket portions; wherein said pair of socket portions are formed in two opposite surfaces of said main connector body to receive said board ends inserted in opposite directions (see figs. 1-4); wherein said contact members are arranged in a plurality of rows (see figs. 1-4) with a gap in the directions of insertion of said board (7, 8) ends into said socket portions; wherein said main connector body (5) includes retainers for pressing on and holding said board ends inserted in said socket portions.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Masao (JP 3136872 ).

Masao's device discloses the aforementioned limitations, but fails to fails to explicitly disclose the positions of said points of contact in the respective rows of said contact members being staggered between the rows. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the positions of said points of contact in the respective rows of said contact members being staggered between the rows, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involved only routine skill in the art. In re Japikse, 86 USPQ 70. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the positions of said points of contact in the respective rows of said contact members being staggered between the rows in order to meet the system specification and requirement.

### ***Conclusion***

5. Claims 17 and 20 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Prior art fails to disclose the combination features the points of contact in the two locations are different in shape from each other, and are formed in positions of rotation symmetry through 180 degrees about the middle part of each of said contact members, said contact members being arranged in two

rows, with postures of the contact members in the respective rows being reversed by 180 degrees between the rows and with the rest of the claims limitations.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean F. Duverne whose telephone number is (571) 272-2091. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-7:30, Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JFD

02/01/2006



Jean Frantz Duverne  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839